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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand), on the basis of informal consultations

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which it decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should review the functioning of its methods of work, adopted by the Council in its resolution 2006/9 of 25 July 2006 and confirmed in its resolution 2009/15 of 28 July 2009, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2]

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

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Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations of States under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the realization of their human rights,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

Recognizing the key role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in supporting the work of the Commission.

Recognizing also the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, in which it is stipulated that the Economic and Social Council shall invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme,

Noting the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the Commission's work in this respect,

1. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and further reaffirms its mandate, and its important role in overall policy-making and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which it is recognized that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls is essential for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

2. *Affirms* that the Commission will also contribute to the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda, to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

3. *Decides* that the Commission will report on gender equality and empowerment of women aspects of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council in order to contribute to its work;

4. *Also decides* that the Commission's session will include a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the Commission's deliberations, and that the segment will include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

5. *Further decides* that the Commission will continue to hold, on an annual basis, a general discussion that will commence during the ministerial segment on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and recommends that statements identify goals attained, achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme;

6. *Decides* that statements made during the general discussion will continue to be subject to strict time limits that will be determined prior to the session by the Bureau of the Commission and consistently applied by the Chair;

7. *Also decides* that the Commission will continue to consider one priority theme at each session, based on the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and possible linkages to the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015;

8. *Further decides* that the Commission's consideration of the priority theme shall focus on ways and means to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of current challenges, through not more than two interactive expert panels or other interactive dialogues to identify key policy initiatives and strategies in order to accelerate implementation based on an exchange of national, regional and global experiences, lessons learned, good practices and new insights based on evidence, research and evaluation, and with an emphasis on results achieved, to strengthen dialogue and commitment for further action, and that the expert panels could include experts from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, and other stakeholder groups that work on the theme under consideration;

9. *Decides* that the outcome of the annual discussions on the priority theme will be in the form of short and succinct agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States, which shall focus on action-oriented recommendations for steps and measures to close remaining gaps and meet challenges and accelerate implementation, to be taken by Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, and that the agreed conclusions shall be widely disseminated to the United Nations system and made widely available by all Member States to the public in their own countries to encourage follow-up action;

10. *Also decides* that the Commission will, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda

of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the annual main theme of the Council, as applicable;

11. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission, prior to the session, to identify such an emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach, in consultation with all Member States, through their regional groups, and taking into account inputs from other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Commission through an interactive dialogue;

12. *Decides* that the outcome of the discussion on that emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

13. *Also decides* that each year the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

(a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;

(b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data in regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global level;

14. *Further decides* that the outcome of the discussion on the review theme will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

15. *Calls upon* the Commission to further enhance its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015 by, inter alia, expanding its cooperation with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions through, as appropriate, the exchange of information and transmission of the outcomes of its work, joint informal interactive events and the participation of its Chair, in consultation with the Bureau, in relevant processes;

16. *Invites* all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion of the Commission;

17. *Invites* the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission;

18. *Decides*, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 and 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, such organizations should be encouraged to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and requests the Secretary-General to make

appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information;

19. *Also decides* to strengthen existing opportunities for non-governmental organizations, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 and 1996/31, to contribute to the work of the Commission, including by allocating time for them to deliver statements on themes relevant to the session, during panels and interactive dialogues and at the end of the general discussion, taking into account geographic distribution;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and their contribution to the discussion of the Commission, as well as the programme of side events held on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission;

21. *Encourages* all Member States to consider including in their delegations to the Commission technical experts, planning and budgeting experts and statisticians, including from ministries with expertise relevant to the themes under consideration, as well as parliamentarians, members of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, as appropriate;

22. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to play a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings as well as consultations with Member States;

23. *Also encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and to enhance the impact of its work;

24. *Encourages* Governments and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive preparations for each session of the Commission, at the national, regional and global level, as applicable, so as to strengthen the basis for follow-up to outcomes and implementation;

25. *Requests* the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the work programme of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on the priority theme, including conclusions and recommendations for further action;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made on the review theme at the national level;

28. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system an assessment of the impact of the Commission's input to discussions within the United Nations system;

29. *Decides* that, at its sixtieth session, when the Commission will decide on its future multi-year programme of work, it should further review its working methods with a view to further aligning them to the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015.